

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY, FEB. 22, 1850.

Southern Rights Meeting in Edgecombe.

We are requested to give notice that a public meeting of the citizens of Edgecombe Co., without distinction of party, will be held at the Court House in Tarborough, on Tuesday, the 26th inst., at one o'clock, for the purpose of taking into consideration the subject of northern aggressions upon southern rights.

Hungary and Arrest—The Proceedings at the Court House, &c.

On Wednesday last, just as the cars arrived from the North, it was reported in town that two white young men were on board in custody, charged with the burglarious entry of Tuesday night into the store of the Messrs. BOWERS, on Front-street, and a vast crowd of gentlemen, strangers, and negroes, crowded the thoroughfare from the Depot; the windows of the adjoining houses were also occupied by a numerous throng—and at the State Bank corner in particular, one of the passengers was enlightening a gathering of the citizens upon the circumstances of the arrest.

The statement was that, at Rocky Point, the 17th mile station on the Railroad, two young men had boarded the cars going North, on the same day, Wednesday, and had attracted the suspicion of some persons who had gone on for the purpose of detecting the burglars, if on board the cars. They sat together, and a gold watch was seen under the seat of one. Both were immediately charged with the possession of the stolen property, and required to submit to a searching investigation. This, one of the parties refused, and immediately retired to the closet attached to the cars, whence he returned in a few seconds, and stated that he had then no objection. In the meantime, the passengers had searched him who remained, as we understand, without success. But their conduct and appearance was so suspicious, that it was thought sufficient to justify their arrest, and they were accordingly placed on the return train, for the purpose of being brought to town and examined. In passing again over the spot where the cars were at the moment of the withdrawal of one of the prisoners to the closet an hour or so previous, the Conductor, who was on the lookout, discovered on the track a blue silk handkerchief; the cars were stopped, and the handkerchief taken aboard. It was found to contain eight gold watches, the crystals of which were broken, with a number of gold rings and other jewelry.

We had scarcely derived this information, when a movement of the crowd announced the appearance of the prisoners in charge of Officers HOLDEN and GAFFORD. They were taken to the Court-House, surrounded by a numerous collection of citizens, and placed at the Bar, before Justices NICHOLS, BETTENCOURT, and WALKER. By their order, they were searched, and a number of articles taken from them, among which was what is stated to be a pick-lock, found concealed in the sleeve of one of the prisoners.

A negro woman, the property of Mr. T. SAVAGE, recognized the parties as the same who were seen a day or two ago in the upper chambers of the Bank building, enquiring their way to the Banking Room, on the lower story, and as the same who were also engaged in investigating the interior arrangements of a private residence, on the same day.

The handkerchief was now eagerly examined by the assembly, who crowded, on tip-toe, the banisters of the Bar, and the pick-lock applied to the key, which it was found to fit precisely.

In the middle of the confusion, the prisoners' counsel, Messrs. LONDON and STRANGE, moved for leave to confer with them, which was granted. Mr. J. G. WRIGHT, who appeared for the State, moved for their commitment until the arrival of some necessary witnesses. This was objected to on the part of the prisoners, on the ground that no warrant had yet been served upon them, and that the law required that an examination should first be had, upon proper warrant, before a freeman could be committed on a criminal charge.

After consultation with Mr. MILLER, the Chairman of the Court, by their decision, a warrant was then issued, upon the oath of Mr. BOWERS that he believed the persons in charge had committed a larceny upon his property, and duly served upon them, whereupon they were committed in separate cells to the County Jail until to-day, at 3 o'clock, when the investigation will be continued.

One of the prisoners is a man of about twenty-five years of age, five feet four or five inches high, large blue eyes, brown hair, round full face, fair complexion, and intelligent countenance.

The other is taller; about five feet eight or ten inches high, brown hair, grey eyes, dark complexion; about thirty years of age, slim, small mouth, and a mark upon the left side of his upper lip, with a resolute expression.

Their demeanor was perfectly cool and possessed. Upon their examination, they gave their names as WILLIAM WALTON and JAMES COLE.

The value of the property stolen is said to be about \$2,000; the amount recovered is about \$700. This will be a serious damage to the Messrs. BOWERS, who are very respectable and industrious young men, and have just commenced business here.

Since the above was in type, Mr. WALKER, the mail agent on the train, has placed in our hands a copy of the *Goldboro' Telegraph*, containing a statement of the circumstances connected with the arrest, furnished by him to that paper. As it is more precise than any account we have yet heard, we append it as follows:

At ALSTON.—Early this morning, at Wilmington, it was discovered that the Watch and Jewelry Store of the Messrs. BOWERS had been entered during the night, and robbed of about \$2,000 worth of articles, principally Gold Watches. Supposing that the robbers might attempt to take the cars not far from town, Mr. JOHN SHAW, the friend of the Messrs. BOWERS, came out to meet the downward train, to see if any suspicious persons got on, on the way; and Mr. SHERWOOD, the conductor, and myself, were also keeping a strict look out. When we approached the cross roads just above Rocky Point, two men without baggage, and suspicious in their appearance, presented themselves to take the cars. I was so satisfied in my mind they were the fellows, I looked up the Post Office, and went in to the coach. Mr. SHERWOOD approached them to collect their fare, and said to one of them in a stern manner, "how far are you going?" and "what is your name?" The fellow was very much agitated, and turned quite pale, but finally made out to say, "to Burgaw" (which is the next station) to look for work. They very soon discovered from our deportment, that we suspected them, when one of them made an effort to get out on the platform. But by this time Mr. SHAW and Mr. MIDDLETON were each placed against the doors. Finding he could not get out, he very rudely passed into the ladies part of the car, and into the water closet, and closed the door, no doubt for the purpose of throwing away the stolen property to escape detection. About this time, four gentlemen, who came over passengers on the steamer from Charleston, discovered, simultaneously, a new Gold Watch, without either guard or chain, and not running, on the seat the fellow had been sitting on a few minutes before, and which he no doubt had tried to conceal under the seat. We immediately placed them under guard till the train met, when we sent them back to Wilmington.

Respectfully, &c. W. A. WALKER, February 20, 1850.

CALIFORNIA SPECULATION.—It is said that the most profitable venture that can be taken out to California, is an assortment of coffins and calomel.

The next Governor—A Canvass.

We care very little about the time set apart for the holding of the Democratic State Convention, nor about the place of holding it, although we must repeat what we have said before, that our views decidedly point to the very latest day that can be named. The 2d Monday in May would accord best with our notions, and, for various obvious reasons, would be the most expedient—at least so it appears to us, but whatever will suit the wishes of the people throughout the State, we are willing to agree to. A week or two sooner or later, is a minor consideration. We consider it, however, as a settled matter, that the Convention should be, and will be held. Indeed, we know of no other way in which anything like unanimity or harmony can so well be secured, if, indeed, they be secured at all, at the same time that it will promote an interchange of views and feelings between the Democratic citizens residing in different sections of the State.

In case that no Convention is held, a dozen candidates may be brought out, the result of which will be certain defeat. The people of one county may propose the name of one man, those of another county another man. We notice that a correspondent of the Standard, who takes ground against Conventions, proposes the name of ISAAC T. AVERY, of Burke.—Half a dozen other correspondents may nominate half a dozen other gentlemen, and if no Convention is to be held, how, or by whom, is the selection to be made? Who is to be recognized as the candidate of the party? Are we to have one candidate or one dozen? Has the Mountain District any more right of nomination than the seventh? We think not.—Most certainly it seems to us, that we must have a Convention.

As for a canvass, or a political contest of any kind in this State, we know that it has been objected to as being out of place in the present position of our national affairs, and calculated to promote division among our people at a time when union and concert of action are imperatively called for. From such a view of the case we must dissent in toto. Instead of dividing the people on the question of Southern rights, it will unite them. It will bring politicians in direct contact with the people upon this question, when mistification must be laid aside, and a decided stand taken, and we betide the candidate, or the party, that dares to shuffle or betray the people when brought face to face with them in a popular canvass. We say decidedly, let us have a canvass, a free and full canvass. If there is any thing sought to be hidden, let it be dragged forth. If there be any who fear a canvass upon this issue, let them wince, or shrink from it, but the people want to know the sentiments of all for whom they are called upon to vote—they want the candidates to come before them like men, without any concealment and equivocation.—This is not a time when discussion should be avoided, or light refused upon a question of so much importance to the South and to the Union.

Besides, there are other questions of policy, which, although temporarily thrown in the shade by the superior urgency of the territorial question, should not be lost sight of—why should Democrats lose sight of them? Why should they abandon every thing, while their opponents abandon nothing? We do not think that any reasonable man expects that they will; but while they adhere as party men to their party principles and organization, they are none the less willing to join with the different parties, upon a ground different from, and above all parties.

Let us have a canvass. Let the candidates go before the people fully prepared to speak their minds upon the slavery question, and what harm can be done? What man or party has any cause to fear such canvass, unless from a consciousness of being unound?

THIS DAY.—We deem it hardly necessary to call attention to the fact, that this is the 22d day of February; a day rendered memorable in our annals as the birth-day of the immortal WASHINGTON, and more recently illustrated by the glorious victory of Buena Vista. We presume the day will be celebrated with all due spirit, both by the military and other bodies. Although by no means very fond of parades or ceremonial observances of any kind, we still cling to the hope that the time is far distant when those days which stand as landmarks to our nation's history will be forgotten or cease to be observed.

FIRE IN MACON.—A fire broke out in Macon, Ga., about midnight on the 18th inst., which destroyed property to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars. About twenty houses were burned, mostly situated on Cotton Avenue. No cotton was consumed.

JUDGE STRANGE'S SPEECH.—The address delivered by Hon. ROBERT STRANGE, at the Southern Rights meeting, held in the Court House in Wilmington, on the 20th ult., will appear in our next issue.

Reading Room has been established at Elizabethtown, Bladen county, N. C., under the charge of Col. J. G. McDUGALD, Dr. N. GRAHAM, J. C. WOOTEN, W. H. WHITE, and J. J. McCREE.

The North Carolina Star has just been considerably enlarged and improved in appearance. It is now of the very largest size of North Carolina newspapers, and is distinguished as being one of the few Whig papers in the State that have taken bold and independent ground upon the question of Southern Rights. It stands alone in this respect in Raleigh. We sincerely hope that it may soon become a Star of the first magnitude in the matter of patronage.

FIRE IN NEW-ORLEANS.—A fire broke out in New-Orleans, about midnight on the 15th inst., which destroyed property to the amount of one million of dollars. The Office of the *Picayune* newspaper was burned down, and very little saved from it. The *Picayune* was issued on the 17th. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

CANDIDATES FOR THE PRESIDENCY.—The N. York *Times* and *Republic*, formerly a Democratic paper, has changed hands, and now appears with the name of HENRY CLAY as a Presidential candidate in 1852, "subject only to the people." A meeting in Pennsylvania has nominated JAMES BUCHANAN. A small daily paper in Detroit, Michigan, has hoisted the name of THOMAS H. BENTON, and General LANE is already before the people for some time. These gentlemen are all candidates for the Presidency of the United States, to say nothing of those who look forward to the Presidency of the dis-United States.

EARLY IN THE FIELD.—The *Neubornian* has just become aware of the fact, that a Southern Rights meeting has been held in Duplin county. In two or three weeks more, he will find out that some time since there was a meeting in this town, and that the resolutions passed by it have been presented to the Senate. Do wake up.

A Commendable Determination.—The Editor of the Raleigh Standard expresses a determination to advertise no more patent medicines, unless they pay the very fullest prices, and even then he don't know whether he will publish them. We have made a rule to charge all alike, and in no case can these medicine men be accommodated one farthing below our regular charges. There is no sort of advertisements against which our subscribers so soon grumble. No sort of attention will be paid to those sending an advertisement to be inserted for a sum dictated by themselves.

The Nineteenth Century.

There are some things which have become so much a matter of course, that people never once pretend to question their truth; such for instance, as the oft-repeated assertion of the great superiority of the nineteenth century, over all the centuries which have preceded it. We hear of the advances of man in all the arts of life—the improvements in machinery—of steam, the magnetic telegraph—the printing press, and so forth, and never stop to consider whether, after all, man himself, as a thinking and feeling being has progressed one iota, whether people are happier or better, whether the great precepts of christianity which teach us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to do as we would be done by, are more strictly adhered to. We fear that an examination into these matters would not be quite so flattering to the vanity of the people of these days.—A retrospective glance of only a few months, would be sufficient to show us that mere mechanical development is neither freedom, virtue, nor happiness.—That man, in his individual capacity, is no nearer the great ends of his being—no more capable of effecting them, than he was a thousand years ago. That throughout all Europe, Democracy means little else than socialism and irreligion, while on the other hand, law and order are synonymous with tyranny and oppression. About this time of the year 1848, barely two years ago, the standard of revolution was raised in France, and Louis Philippe was driven forth. What has happened since then? The whole European world has been convulsed, thrones have tottered or have fallen, only to be again re-established with greater power and more galling tyranny.—Even in France, where the name of a republic has been kept up, the press is less free and the nation more enslaved than under Louis Philippe. Look at the European world from one end to the other—see Ireland starving—every eighth man in England a pauper—Hungary crushed, decimated, butchered—Austria bankrupt—Prussia a camp, and Naples a vast prison, while even the head of the Catholic Church dares not return to the seat of his temporal authority, unprotected by foreign bayonets, and then sing psalms to the nineteenth century.

But let us look nearer home. Let us go, in thought, at least, to the seat of Government of the happiest and most prosperous confederacy on earth. Let us stand one moment on the deck of the steamer, as she glides up the Potomac, and hear the bell toll as she floats past the shades of Mount Vernon, the hallowed resting place of WASHINGTON. Let us then enter the city which bears his name, and ascending the unrivalled steps that lead up to the capitol, listen to the debates in either House, and what do we find? Men grateful for the thousand blessings they enjoy? No, but men madly bent on dissolving a Union under whose *Egis* all have flourished. Fanaticism under the name of freedom, lifting its hand to strike down freedom's noblest monument. Politicians under the garb of patriotism, aiming only at their own petty aggrandisement. Is this not so? True, there are noble men—true men—self-sacrificing men, and enough of them, we fondly hope, to save the country from the untold horrors of disunion; but the fact that there should be any so utterly foolish, so reckless and so criminal as to be willing to push aggression to the point of disunion, is humiliating in the extreme. Man has learned to control the elements, but not himself. The lightning is the vehicle of his thoughts, but those thoughts themselves are but the offspring of his passions, and his prejudices.

We have been so used to hear the nineteenth century glorified and praised by writers and talkers, who adopt the current cant of the day without reflection or examination, that we have ventured to present the few preceding remarks as a sort of counter-part to the glowing pictures so commonly drawn. Perhaps neither view of the case is precisely accurate,—truth might lie between,—but while people are ready to take for granted everything in praise of the days in which they live, the truth will never be arrived at, nor will the errors and defects under which the world labors ever be remedied or removed.

GEORGIA.—It is now certain that JACKSON (Dem.) has been re-elected from T. B. KING's late district. KING's majority had been over 700 votes. That California mission does not seem to have benefited the Whig cause in Georgia.

WE notice among our visitors this week, Captain McDONALD, late of the 3d Artillery U. S. A., and formerly Ast. Quarter Master of Gen. LANE's Division, and mentioned by that officer for his gallantry at Huamantla, and other places.

Capt. McDONALD has recently resigned his commission in the Army, and is engaged now in purchasing lumber for the California market.

Mr. Hannegan.

We have been pained to notice lately going the rounds of the Federal press, a report, originating with the correspondent of a Boston paper, to the effect that Mr. HANNEGAN, our late Minister to Berlin, had been degrading himself, and the character of his country abroad, by the use of ardent spirits, and by depraved conduct generally. Mr. HANNEGAN was a distinguished Democratic Senator, and was appointed by Mr. POLK, hence this slander has been greedily seized upon and propagated by the administration presses. It gives us much satisfaction to publish the following from the N. Y. Globe:

"We perceive that our late Minister to Berlin, Hon. EDWARD A. HANNEGAN, has returned in the Europe; and a personal friend of ours, who knew him intimately abroad, authorizes us to say that the letter defamatory of Mr. HANNEGAN, published in the papers of Boston, and copied elsewhere, makes nothing but statements utterly without foundation. Mr. HANNEGAN never tasted a drop of ardent spirits during his whole residence in Europe, and his conduct was of the most amiable and exemplary character under all circumstances. The stories, therefore, of the letter-writer in question, are most cruel as well as unjust, and were, no doubt, the manufacture of some personal ill-feeling and malignity."

Meeting in Sampson.

A Southern Rights Meeting was held at Clinton, Sampson County, on Monday last. We have not received the official report, and give, at present, only a synopsis.

The meeting was very numerously attended. Dr. Wm. McKay was appointed President and F. B. MILLARD and SILAS HERRING, VICE PRESIDENTS.—LEWIS F. CARR and ALMOND A. MCKAY, SECT'S.

The following were the Committee appointed to draft Resolutions: Messrs. THOS. J. MORSEY, EDWARD G. GAVIN, WM. FAISOS, and the Rev. JNO. L. CLIFTON.

The Speakers were, Messrs. LEWIS F. CARR, Wm. K. SLOCUM, THOS. J. MORSEY, ED. WILLIAMS, J. C. DORRIN and WARREN WINSLOW, ESQS.

Fifty Delegates were appointed to attend the Wilmington District Convention.

Resolutions ordered to be published, and copies forwarded to our Representatives and Senators in Congress.—Commercial.

There was also a meeting held at Waynesboro' on Tuesday afternoon last, upon the same subject. The meeting was well attended. We have not yet received the proceedings, but presume we shall be able to give them next week, together with the proceedings of the meeting in Sampson county.

Rev. Dr. FULLER.—We learn, that through too great exertion, this devoted, and eminently successful minister of Christ, has become prostrated, and has retired for a season, to his former residence in Beaufort, S. C. This is a afflictive event, and an account of it, very many will sorrow.

Wilmington Religious Intelligencer.

The weather to-day is very much like Spring.

A Newspaper.

If any one were to state his abstract idea of a newspaper, he would undoubtedly speak of it, as a thing—as an affair without a soul—as a sort of corporation; insensible to sickness or the blue devils, and bound to have news upon all occasions, and editorials too—and it must please every one of its twelve hundred or twelve thousand subscribers, as the case may be, and they, each and all of them, have the right and privilege to swear at it upon all proper and improper occasions, and it must not swear back again. Like LINDLEY MURRAY's definition of a verb, its duty is "to be, to do, and to suffer," especially the latter. This is all the public knows or cares about it, and all it should know or care; but to the editor it is a different thing—he knows that if the paper never gets the blues, he does;—the paper must not be sick, even although he may be so; and above all, no matter how stupid or dull he may feel, the paper must be filled, and must come out; well it must, and this brings us to our discourse, of which the above is the text. The fact is, that we feel about as dull as a long sermon, as crabbed as a whole orchard of crab apples, and our brain-pan as dry as a remainder biscuit after a California voyage. For the last fifteen minutes, we have hunted one little idea, without being able to come up with him; and we do not know where to find another. We have thought of the wealth of California—the political world—all blank. The weather is quiet. Putty is without change in price, and politics about as usual—nobody doing any thing eccentric—not even a murder about, and the Circus is gone. It is said that the people up country have grown desperate, and taken to getting married. Well, they might do worse. The N. C. Argus man maketh an item in this wise:

Our friends ought to procure us all the subscribers they can. Reason why.—Last Thursday night we went to bed the father of two girls, to get up yesterday morning the father of two girls and a boy.—The little stranger is well; so is the mother; considering they say our boy is the very image of myself. Did it favor any one else, it would stand a chance of being much handsomer than it is. We say, having an additional month to fill, we ought to get a commensurate number of new subscribers to enable us to fill it.

We have all along gone for Union. Now we go stronger than ever, for the following reason.—We have three children. One was born in Pennsylvania, one in New Jersey, and the third is a native of the Old North State. Hurrah for the Union! say we.

N. C. Argus.

Now that's what we call a triangular argument for the Union. We almost envy the man, simply because it affords him something to write about. We feel like doing something very terrible, we do. Yes—a "crisis" has arrived—we will go to the river, and, having taken one more look at the shipping, step into—the Post Office, and see what news has come by the mail.

P. S. We have just been to the Post Office and find that the Cars brought no Northern mail. Our box contained only one paper—the Fayetteville Observer. The Observer man seems to have a very bad opinion of the "loco focus"—he always has. The Observer man is wrong—very wrong—the "loco focus" as he calls them, are capital fellows—no doubt about it.

P. P. S. They have "cotched" two men for stealing watches and jewelry, and there is a big crowd at the Bank corner. We must see to it. The devil is started full cry and is shouting Hooray! and there is a great excitement, and we say, hooray too, in a quiet way. So ends the homily.

To the Rescued.

We hail with great pleasure the two meetings which have been called in Philadelphia and New York, to arrest the agitators in their frenzied fanaticism, and to save this glorious Union from their machinations. The meeting in Philadelphia takes place on the 22d February, (the birth-day of Washington.) The Baltimore American hails, as "a cheering sign in the northern sky," the meeting which it says is "announced in Tammany Hall for Saturday evening next, at which all the 'democratic republican electors' of the city of New York are invited, who are opposed to the Wilmot Proviso, and are friends of the Union." The objects of the meetings are to take counsel upon the present crisis, and to adopt such measures as may tend to preserve to them and their posterity the blessings of our great and glorious Union.

If this movement had a party character at the beginning, it is so truly national in spirit and purpose that the partisan aspect cannot long remain associated with it. The Journal of Commerce, alluding to it, says:

"Whigs and Democrats now see and acknowledge that the Wilmot Proviso is a humbug; that under no possible circumstances can it do any good; that, on the contrary, it is fraught with untold mischief. The objects of the meetings are to take counsel upon the present crisis, and to adopt such measures as may tend to preserve to them and their posterity the blessings of our great and glorious Union. If this movement had a party character at the beginning, it is so truly national in spirit and purpose that the partisan aspect cannot long remain associated with it. The Journal of Commerce, alluding to it, says: "Whigs and Democrats now see and acknowledge that the Wilmot Proviso is a humbug; that under no possible circumstances can it do any good; that, on the contrary, it is fraught with untold mischief. 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